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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016778/0437

Applicant: Yukio MORISHIGE et al.

Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CORRECTING PATTERN FILM ON
A SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATE

Serial No. 09/981,712

Filed: October 19, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: 2881

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provided below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A translation of a portion of a Japanese Office Action that issued June 11, 2003 with respect to a counterpart Japanese patent application is provided below.

“The invention related to the following claims of this application is based on inventions cited in the following publications, which had been circulated in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application. Because a person having ordinary knowledge of the technical field to which that invention belongs could have easily made the invention prior to this application, a patent cannot be granted pursuant to the stipulations of Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japan Patent Law.

Note

(For a list of the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature.)

Claims 1, 2, 5 through 7, 9, 10

Cited Literature: 1, 2

Remarks

The invention described in Cited Literature 1 is a mask correction device wherein the work surface of the substrate is held facing upward, and white faults and black faults are corrected by irradiating with a laser from above (Refer to Figure 1 and the lower section of page 4.).

The invention described in Cited Literature 2 is a laser etching or laser deposition surface processing device, wherein [the substrate] is retained at an angle formed by the normal line of the surface of the object to be processed and the direction of gravity's pull that is smaller than 90 degrees (Refer to the Scope of Patent Claims.). In the example of embodiment of the invention described in Cited Literature 2, the work surface of the substrate is retained downward, and the pattern is added by irradiating with a laser from below (Refer to Figure 3.).

In the mask correction of the invention described in Cited Literature 1, the falling of foreign material onto the substrate is a general issue. Consequently, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of applying to the invention described in Cited Literature 1 the fact that the surface of the work piece of the substrate is retained facing down and is irradiated with a laser from below, as described in the invention of Cited Literature 2.

A person skilled in the art could suitably provide separate lasers for white fault correction and black fault correction in the invention described in Cited Literature 1 corresponding the correction conditions, and we find no unique effect.

Claims 4, 8

Cited Literature: 1 through 3

Remarks

Described in Cited Literature 3 is the fact that the ambient atmosphere is removed by vacuum and is replaced with an atmosphere of a gas such as helium in order to prevent the adhesion of foreign material when correcting faults.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S63-36249
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S61-279690
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H08-062827."

Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action is based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. This statement should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

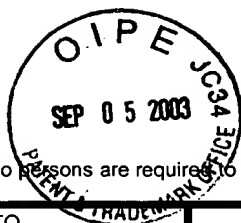
Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

September 5, 2003
Date

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: September 5, 2003

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/981712
Filing Date	10/19/2001
First Named Inventor	Yukio MORISHIGE
Group Art Unit	2881
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	016778-0437

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	61-279690			12/10/1986		X
	A2	JP	63-36249			02/16/1988		X
	A3	JP	8-62827			03/08/1996		X

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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